

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1, 3, 7 and 13 and cancel Claims 16-19 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a solid state image sensor for the acquisition of an image presented to the sensor in response to an asynchronous stimulus, wherein said image sensor is operated in conjunction with at least one detector which, directly or indirectly, detects said asynchronous stimulus, said image sensor is regularly reset so as to commence integration from a reset state of the sensor each time a predetermined period has elapsed, and an output from said at least one detector prior to the end of a current predetermined period determines whether the subsequent reset operation of said image sensor is inhibited or not in that if said output indicates the occurrence of said asynchronous stimulus then the subsequent reset operation of said image sensor is inhibited, and said image sensor is allowed to continue integration commenced after a last reset operation before the occurrence of said asynchronous stimulus, whereby image data captured by the image sensor after said last reset operation before the occurrence of said asynchronous stimulus is stored and used in the acquisition of said image, and image capture data therefore includes image data occurring prior to the occurrence of said asynchronous stimulus.

2. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the detector outputs a detection signal when said asynchronous stimulus is detected, and said detection signal is used to trigger a reset inhibition control signal for inhibiting a subsequent reset signal to the sensor.

3. (Currently Amended) A method of using a solid state image sensor comprising an array of sensing cells, for the acquisition of an image presented to the sensor in response to an asynchronous stimulus, wherein said image sensor is regularly reset so as to commence integrating from a reset state of the sensor each time a predetermined period has elapsed, and wherein a portion of the array of the sensor is read prior to the end of a current predetermined period and the value of this read is used to determine whether a subsequent reset signal to the sensor should be inhibited or not in that if said value indicates the occurrence of an asynchronous

stimulus then said subsequent reset signal is inhibited, and said image sensor is allowed to continue integration commenced after a last reset operation before the occurrence of said asynchronous stimulus, whereby image data captured by the image sensor after said last reset operation before the occurrence of said asynchronous stimulus is stored and used in the acquisition of said image, and image capture data therefore includes image data occurring prior to the occurrence of said asynchronous stimulus.

4. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 3, wherein said portion of the array read prior to each reset comprises a plurality of sensing cells which are spatially distributed throughout the array of sensing cells.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the asynchronous stimulus is the opening of a camera shutter.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1 wherein the asynchronous stimulus is a flash of light from a lighting strobe.

7. (Currently Amended) Image capture control apparatus suitable for use with a solid state image sensor for the acquisition of an image presented to the sensor in response to an asynchronous stimulus, wherein said image sensor is regularly reset so as to commence integration from a reset state of the sensor each time a predetermined period has elapsed, said apparatus comprising at least one detector means formed and arranged for detecting, in use of the apparatus, directly or indirectly, a said asynchronous stimulus, and reset inhibition control signal output means formed and arranged for generating a reset inhibition control signal in response to detection of said asynchronous stimulus and supplying it, directly or indirectly, in use of the apparatus, to a reset signal generating means operatively coupled to said solid state image sensor, so as to inhibit the application of at least one subsequent reset signal to the sensor whenever the occurrence of said asynchronous stimulus has been detected during a current predetermined period, and said image sensor is allowed to continue integration commenced after a last reset operation before the occurrence of said asynchronous stimulus, whereby image data captured by the image sensor after said last reset operation before the occurrence of said asynchronous

stimulus is stored and used in the acquisition of said image, and image capture data therefore includes image data occurring prior to the occurrence of said asynchronous stimulus.

8. (Previously Presented) Image capture control apparatus according to claim 7 wherein said at least one detector means and said reset inhibition control signal output means are provided in a single device.

9. (Previously Presented) Image capture control apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said reset inhibition control signal output means and said reset signal generating means are provided together in a single device.

10. (Previously Presented) Image capture control apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the detector is formed and arranged for detecting the opening of a camera shutter.

11. (Previously Presented) Image capture control apparatus according to claim 7 wherein the detector is formed and arranged for detecting a flash of light from a lighting strobe.

12. (Previously Presented) A camera having a solid state image sensor, wherein is provided image capture control apparatus according to claim 7.

13. (Currently Amended) Image capture control apparatus suitable for use with a solid state image sensor for the acquisition of an image presented to the sensor in response to an asynchronous stimulus, said apparatus comprising at least one detector means formed and arranged for detecting, in use of the apparatus, directly or indirectly, a said asynchronous stimulus, and reset signal generating means operatively coupled to said solid state image sensor for regularly resetting the image sensor, in use of the apparatus, so that the sensor commences integrating from a reset state thereof each time a predetermined period has elapsed, reset inhibition control signal output means formed and arranged for generating a reset inhibition control signal in response to detection of said asynchronous stimulus and supplying it, directly or indirectly, in use of the apparatus to said reset signal generating means, so as to inhibit the application of at least one subsequent reset signal to the sensor, and said image sensor is allowed

to continue integration commenced after a last reset operation before the occurrence of said asynchronous stimulus, whereby image data captured by the image sensor after said last reset operation before the occurrence of said asynchronous stimulus is stored and used in the acquisition of said image, and image capture data therefore includes image data occurring prior to the occurrence of said asynchronous stimulus.

14. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the asynchronous stimulus is the opening of a camera shutter.

15. (Previously Presented) A method according to Claim 3, wherein the asynchronous stimulus is a flash of light from a lighting strobe.

16-19. (Canceled).